

We Claim:

1. A process for providing a guidewire for intraluminal use in a medical procedure, comprising:

providing an elongated core member having a proximal core section and a distal core section;

forming a flexible body by co-drawing a wire having an exterior of a first radiopacity, and a high strength interior of a second radiopacity, wherein the first radiopacity is greater than the second radiopacity;

wherein the exterior of the wire includes a material selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, iridium, and alloys thereof;

wherein the high strength interior includes a material selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tungsten, and alloys thereof; and

disposing the flexible body on the distal core section.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the flexible body includes a coil.

3. The process of claim 1, wherein the high strength interior further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of nickel-titanium, Co-Cr-Mo, and alloys thereof.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the exterior of the wire is an alloy including 90% (wt.) platinum and 10% (wt.) iridium.

5. A process for providing a guidewire for intraluminal advancement of a medical device within a patient, comprising:

providing an elongated core member having a proximal core section and a distal core section;

providing a first coil by cladding a highly radiopaque exterior including a material selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, iridium, and alloys thereof, over a high strength interior including a material selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tungsten, and alloys thereof, to form a wire, wherein the highly radiopaque exterior of the wire has a transverse cross-section of at least 10% of the first coil;

disposing the first coil at the distal core section; and

disposing a second coil at the distal core section and proximal to the first coil.

6. The process of claim 5, wherein the core member includes a flattened distal tip.

7. The process of claim 5, wherein the distal core section includes a taper in a distal direction.

8. The process of claim 5, wherein the distal core section includes nickel-titanium.

9. The process of claim 5, wherein the second coil includes a non-circular, polygonal cross-sectional shape.

10. A process for providing a flexible body for an intracorporeal device, comprising:

forming a wire at least partially into a helical coil having a high strength interior core, and a highly radiopaque cladding that is at least 10% but not more than 60% of a cross-sectional area of the flexible body.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein the materials for the cladding and the interior core are reversed.

12. The process of claim 10, wherein the high strength interior core includes a material selected from the group consisting of nickel-titanium, Co-Cr-Mo, tantalum, tungsten, and alloys thereof.

13. The process of claim 10, wherein the process includes joining the flexible body to a second flexible body.

14. The process of claim 13, wherein the second flexible body is formed by co-drawing a wire having an exterior of a first radiopacity and a high strength interior of a second radiopacity, wherein the first radiopacity is greater than the second radiopacity.